

REMARKS

The Applicants express their appreciation to Examiner Patel for the courtesy of an interview which was granted to the Applicants' representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26,856). The interview was held at the Examiner's office at the USPTO on August 30, 2004. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary, dated 8/30/04 and handed to the applicants' representative.

At the interview, proposed amended claims were presented to the Examiner, and discussed in the light of the Enzinger reference cited in the outstanding Office Action. The Examiner indicated that proposed changes to claims 1 and 12 to recite "a first end section having an opening", and a "breath sampling port" would appear to overcome the Enzinger reference cited in the outstanding Office Action. The applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication to consider the applicants' request to withdraw the finality on this case, due to possible defects in the final rejection, as asserted by the applicants.

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Office Action, especially those aspects of the prior art discussed at the Interview. The proposed claims have been amended to more distinctly and clearly recite the features of the present invention claimed over the prior art cited. The present amendment, filed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116, is intended to be fully responsive to all points of final rejection raised by the Examiner, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the finality in this case, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Specification amendments

The specification in paragraph 2 of page 14 and in paragraph 1 of page 17 has been amended by the replacement of the phrase "inner wall" by the phrase "inner end wall". This amendment is made in order to increase the clarity of the specification by clearly defining which of the inner walls of the ET adapter is being referred to. Support for this amendment is to be found in Figs. 3 and 5 of the drawings